

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

BONA FIDE CONGLOMERATE, INC.,
Plaintiff,
v.
SOURCEAMERICA et al.,
Defendant.

Case No.: 14-cv-0751-GPC-DHB

ORDER:

- (1) GRANTING PLAINTIFF'S MOTION TO SUPPLEMENT COMPLAINT**
- (2) GRANTING DEFENDANT'S MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE FIRST AMENDED ANSWER AND COUNTERCLAIMS**
- [ECF Nos. 246 & 247]

Plaintiff Bona Fide Conglomerate, Inc. ("Plaintiff" or "Bona Fide") brings this breach of contract action against SourceAmerica ("Defendant" or "SourceAmerica") concerning a July 27, 2012 Settlement Agreement ("Settlement Agreement") between the parties. Presently before the Court are Plaintiff's motion for leave to file a supplemental complaint (Plf.'s Mot., ECF No. 246) and Defendant's motion for leave to file a First Amended Answer ("FAA") and counterclaims (Def.'s Mot., ECF No. 247). The Parties have fully briefed both motions. (ECF Nos. 249-50, 256-57.) The Court finds the motions

1 suitable for disposition without oral argument pursuant to Civil Local Rule 7.1(d)(1). For
2 the reasons set forth below, the Court **GRANTS** Plaintiff's motion for leave to file a
3 supplemental complaint and **GRANTS** Defendant's motion for leave to file an FAA and
4 counterclaims.

5 **FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

6 This action arises out of the AbilityOne Program ("AbilityOne" or "Program"), a
7 government procurement system for goods and services from designated non-profits (i.e.,
8 "Affiliates") that substantially employ blind or severely disabled persons. (FAC ¶ 2, ECF
9 No. 128.) Services provided by Affiliates to the Federal Government include
10 custodial/janitorial, grounds maintenance, information technology, and total facilities
11 management. (*Id.* ¶ 50.) Plaintiff is one such Affiliate of the AbilityOne Program. (*Id.*
12 ¶ 17.)

13 The AbilityOne Program has selected SourceAmerica as the Central Non-Profit
14 Agency ("CNA") responsible for allocating procurement opportunities for services by the
15 severely disabled among its more than 1,200 member Affiliates. (*Id.* ¶¶ 4, 72.) As the
16 CNA, SourceAmerica develops opportunities and selects Affiliates, and then recommends
17 to an AbilityOne Commission that the service and Affiliate be added to a Procurement List.
18 (*Id.* ¶¶ 38, 44-45.) Once a service is added to the Procurement List, a federal agency must
19 procure that service from the designated Affiliate unless the Affiliate cannot meet the
20 agency's demand. (*Id.* at ¶ 38.) The AbilityOne Commission ultimately determines which
21 services are added to the Procurement List based on the recommendations of
22 SourceAmerica. (*Id.* ¶¶ 44-45.) However, the AbilityOne Commission does not oversee
23 SourceAmerica's allocation.

24 Plaintiff alleges a history of disputes between Plaintiff and SourceAmerica over the
25 allocation of AbilityOne opportunities. Plaintiff alleges filing a post-award bid protest in
26 the U.S. Court of Federal Claims in October 2010, challenging the government's award of
27 a General Services Administration ("GSA") contract to Defendant Opportunity Village
28 pursuant to SourceAmerica's recommendation. (*Id.* ¶ 86.) Following the voluntary

1 voidance of SourceAmerica's recommendation and a re-solicitation of the GSA contract
 2 opportunity, Plaintiff's post-award bid protest was dismissed as moot. (*Id.*) Plaintiff then
 3 commenced a second bid protest in April 2012, challenging the contract award again made
 4 to Opportunity Village pursuant to SourceAmerica's recommendation. (*Id.* ¶ 87.) Plaintiff
 5 and SourceAmerica reached a settlement memorialized in a July 27, 2012 agreement
 6 ("Settlement Agreement") prior to conducting discovery. (*Id.* ¶ 88.) Under the terms of
 7 the Settlement Agreement, SourceAmerica agreed to:

8 use best efforts to provide that Bona Fide is treated objectively, fairly, and
 9 equitably in its dealings with [SourceAmerica], with specific attention to
 10 contract allocation . . . [SourceAmerica] will also use best efforts to provide
 11 that Bona Fide is afforded equal access to services provided by
 12 [SourceAmerica] including, regulatory assistance; information technology
 13 support; engineering, financial and technical assistance; legislative and
 workforce development assistance; communications and public expertise; and
 an extensive training program.

14 (*Id.* ¶ 89) (alterations in original). The Settlement Agreement also provided that
 15 SourceAmerica would "reasonably monitor" Plaintiff's participation in the AbilityOne
 16 Program for three years. (*Id.* ¶ 90.) Plaintiff alleges it has "not been awarded a single new
 17 contract by SourceAmerica since the Settlement Agreement was signed." (*Id.* ¶ 93.) The
 18 Settlement Agreement also provides that Plaintiff must notify the Office of General
 19 Counsel at SourceAmerica of every AbilityOne opportunity to which Plaintiff responds.
 20 (Decl. of Kevin W. Alexander ("Alexander Decl.") ¶ 13, ECF No. 247-2.)

21 PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

22 On April 1, 2014, Plaintiff filed the Complaint in this matter alleging antitrust
 23 violations against various defendants and breach of contract against only Defendant
 24 SourceAmerica. (ECF. No. 1.) Defendants filed ten separate motions to dismiss Plaintiff's
 25 Complaint. (Dkt. Nos. 23, 47, 48, 51, 53, 55, 66, 85, 86, 87.) On August 20, 2014, the
 26 Court granted in part and denied in part Defendants' motions to dismiss, leaving only the
 27 breach of contract claim against SourceAmerica. (ECF No. 123.)

28 On September 19, 2014, Plaintiff filed the operative FAC. (ECF. No. 128.)

1 Defendants filed ten separate motions to dismiss the FAC. (ECF Nos. 138, 140, 141, 143,
2 144, 148, 149, 150, 155, 159.) On January 6, 2015, the Court again dismissed Plaintiff's
3 antitrust claims but denied SourceAmerica's motion to dismiss the breach of contract
4 claim. (ECF No. 189.)

5 On August 21, 2015, Magistrate Judge David H. Bartick issued a Scheduling Order
6 which, among other things, provided that any motion to join other parties, to amend the
7 pleadings, or to file additional pleadings shall be filed on or before October 30, 2015. (ECF
8 No. 245.) On October 30, 2015, Plaintiff filed the instant motion for leave to file a
9 supplemental complaint (ECF No. 246) and Defendant filed a motion for leave to file first
10 amended answer and counterclaims (ECF No. 247). The parties filed oppositions on
11 November 20, 2015 (ECF Nos. 249, 250) and replies on December 4, 2015 (ECF Nos. 256,
12 257.)

13 **STANDARD OF REVIEW**

14 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 15(a) provides that a party may amend its pleading
15 once as a matter of course within (1) 21 days after serving the pleading or (2) 21 days after
16 the earlier of service of a responsive pleading or service of a Rule 12(b) motion. Fed. R.
17 Civ. Pro. 15(a). Otherwise, "a party may amend its pleading only with the opposing party's
18 written consent or the court's leave," though the court "should freely give leave when
19 justice so requires." *Id.* "Five factors are taken into account to assess the propriety of a
20 motion for leave to amend: bad faith, undue delay, prejudice to the opposing party, futility
21 of amendment, and whether the [party] has previously amended [a pleading]." *Johnson v.*
22 *Buckley*, 356 F.3d 1067, 1077 (9th Cir. 2004) (citing *Nunes v. Ashcroft*, 348 F.3d 815, 818
23 (9th Cir. 2003)). In practice, however, courts more freely grant plaintiffs leave to amend
24 pleadings in order to add claims than new parties. *Union Pacific R.R. Co. v. Nevada Power*
25 Co., 950 F.2d 1429, 1432 (9th Cir. 1991). These factors do not "merit equal weight," and
26 "it is the consideration of prejudice to the opposing party that carries the greatest weight."
27 *Eminence Capital, LLC v. Aspeon, Inc.*, 316 F.3d 1048, 1052 (9th Cir. 2003). "Absent
28 prejudice, or a strong showing of any of the remaining [] factors, there exists a *presumption*

1 under Rule 15(a) in favor of granting leave to amend.” *Id.* (original emphasis).

2 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 15(d) provides, “On motion and reasonable notice,
 3 the court may, on just terms, permit a party to serve a supplemental pleading setting out
 4 any transaction, occurrence, or event that happened after the date of the pleading to be
 5 supplemented.” Fed. R. Civ. Pro. 15(d). “The purpose of Rule 15(d) is to promote as
 6 complete an adjudication of the dispute between the parties as is possible.” *LaSalvia v.*
 7 *United Dairymen of Ariz.*, 804 F.2d 1113, 1119 (9th Cir. 1986) (citation and brackets
 8 omitted). “The standards for granting a motion for leave to file a supplemental pleading
 9 are the same as those for granting a motion to file an amended complaint under Rule 15(a).”
 10 *Frederick v. Calif. Dep’t of Corr. & Rehab.*, No. 08-cv-2222-MMC, 2012 WL 2077305,
 11 at *2 (N.D. Cal. June 8, 2012) (citation omitted). “The court should also consider whether
 12 permitting the supplemental pleading will serve to promote judicial efficiency.” *Id.*

13 DISCUSSION

14 I. Plaintiff’s Motion to File First Supplemental Complaint

15 Plaintiff seeks leave to file a supplemental complaint to allege facts that occurred
 16 after the filing of the initial complaint (Compl., ECF No. 1) that it states provide further
 17 bases of liability and damages as to Plaintiff’s breach of contract related to the performance
 18 of the Settlement Agreement. Specifically, Plaintiff states that since the commencement
 19 of this action Plaintiff has competed for several contracts as an Affiliate in the AbilityOne
 20 Program. (Mot. Supp. Compl. at 2, ECF No. 246.) Plaintiff alleges that of the contracts
 21 Plaintiff competed for, Defendant awarded five to Affiliates—CW Resources, Professional
 22 Contract Services, Inc. and Goodwill—that Jean Robinson (“Robinson”), Defendant’s
 23 former General Counsel, has stated “receive contracts unfairly and automatically,
 24 regardless of merit.” (*Id.*)

25 Defendant argues that Plaintiff’s motion is untimely, unduly prejudicial because it
 26 is “nothing short of a ‘moving target’ and subject to continual expansion as Plaintiff
 27 continues to apply for AbilityOne contracts and . . . alleges unfair treatment anytime it is
 28 not awarded one.” (Opp’n Supp. Compl. at 1, ECF No. 249.) Defendant also argues that

1 Plaintiff's proposed supplemental complaint is futile because "it contains no additional
 2 substantive allegations" and the allegations are "vague and conclusory." (*Id.*)

3 After review of the motion for leave to file a supplemental complaint and all related
 4 filings, the Court concludes that, under the *Foman* test, Defendant has failed to overcome
 5 the presumption under Rule 15(a) in favor of granting leave to amend. *See Eminence*
6 Capital, 316 F.3d at 1052. Plaintiff's motion is not untimely as the parties agreed at the
 7 August 20, 2015 Rule 26(f) conference to the October 30, 2015 deadline to make motions
 8 to amend pleadings, as reflected in the Court's Scheduling Order. (*See* Scheduling Order,
 9 ECF No. 245.) In fact, in compliance with that deadline, Plaintiff filed its motion to
 10 supplement complaint and Defendant filed its motion for leave to file an amended answer
 11 and counterclaims on October 30, 2015.

12 Nor is there any showing of wrongful motive in supplementing the FAC as the events
 13 Plaintiff seeks to allege are related to the same transaction that forms the basis of Plaintiff's
 14 breach of contract claim—the Settlement Agreement. The Court does not find that there
 15 would be undue prejudice to Defendant in allowing the supplemental complaint. As
 16 Defendant states, the case is its "very early stages" and discovery has just begin. (Def.'s
 17 Mot. at 12, ECF No. 247.) The deadline for filing pretrial dispositive motions is July 15,
 18 2016. (Scheduling Order at 3, ECF No. 245.) Accordingly, no prejudice has been shown.

19 As to the futility factor, Defendant has not shown that Plaintiff's supplemental
 20 pleading would "clearly be subject to dismissal." *DCD Programs, Ltd. v. Leighton*, 833
 21 F.2d 183, 188 (9th Cir. 1987.) Plaintiff's proposed supplemental complaint alleges
 22 additional AbilityOne opportunities were denied in breach of the Settlement Agreement.
 23 At this point of the proceedings, it is not the Court's role to determine the validity of these
 24 claims. The Court cannot conclude that Plaintiff's supplemental complaint is futile.

25 As to the last factor, Plaintiff has not previously sought leave to supplement the
 26 complaint. Based on the five factors that support granting leave to file a supplemental
 27 complaint, and in light of the Ninth Circuit's extremely liberal policy favoring leave to
 28 amend and supplement a complaint, the Court **GRANTS** Plaintiff's motion.

1 **II. Defendant's Motion for Leave to Amend Answer and File Counterclaims**

2 Defendant seeks leave to amend its answer to add additional affirmative defenses
 3 and to assert new counterclaims against Plaintiff and third-party Counter-defendant Ruben
 4 Lopez ("Lopez"), President and CEO of Bona Fide. Specifically, with respect to the
 5 Answer, Defendant seeks to (1) clarify its response regarding the evaluation process for
 6 awarding contracts, (2) break up Defendant's current affirmative defenses of waiver,
 7 estoppel and/or laches into separate sections, and (3) add the affirmative defenses of
 8 frustration of purpose, prevention of performance and unclean hands. (Def.'s Mot. at 6-7,
 9 ECF No 247.)

10 In addition, Defendant requests leave to file counterclaims for (1) violation of
 11 California Penal Code Section 632(a) ("California Invasion of Privacy Act" or "CIPA");
 12 (2) unfair, unlawful and/or fraudulent business practices in violation of California Business
 13 and Professions Code Section 17200; and (3) breach of contract. (*Id.* at 7.) Defendant
 14 contends that its proposed counterclaims are based on newly discovered facts, which
 15 include Plaintiff and Lopez secretly recording conversations between Lopez and Robinson;
 16 Plaintiff failing to notify Defendant of every AbilityOne opportunity to which Plaintiff
 17 responded in violation of the Settlement Agreement; and Counter-defendants having
 18 additional privileged and confidential information that belongs to Defendant that was not
 19 previously disclosed. (*Id.* at 1, 7.) Defendant also argues that its proposed counterclaims
 20 are further based on Counter-defendants' "history of wrongful misconduct in an attempt to
 21 obtain AbilityOne Program opportunities for Bona Fide to which it is neither suitable nor
 22 entitled." (*Id.* at 8.) Plaintiff does not oppose Defendant's motion to amend the Answer
 23 but opposes Defendant's motion to add counterclaims on futility grounds.

24 **A. Bad Faith, Undue Delay, Prejudice**

25 There can be bad faith in bringing an amendment if the party seeks to prolong
 26 meritless litigation by adding baseless amendments to their complaint or if there is any
 27 evidence of wrongful motive. *Jones v. Bates*, 127 F.3d 839, 847 n. 8 (9th Cir. 1997);
 28 *Griggs v. Pace American Group, Inc.*, 170 F.3d 877, 881 (9th Cir. 1999); *DCD Programs*.

1 *Ltd.*, 833 F.2d at 187. Here Plaintiff does not argue nor is there any indication of wrongful
 2 motive in bringing the counterclaims.

3 As to undue delay, the Court looks at whether the moving party unduly delayed in
 4 filing their motion. *Jackson v. Bank of Hawaii*, 902 F.2d 1385, 1388 (9th Cir. 1990). In
 5 making such a determination, the court looks at “whether the moving knew or should have
 6 known the facts and theories raised by the amendment in the original pleading.” *Id.*
 7 According to Defendant, the facts underlying its counterclaims were not learned until
 8 recently. The Court finds that assertion is only partially supported by the record. However,
 9 as discussed *supra*, the parties agreed to an October 30, 2015 deadline to file motions to
 10 amend pleadings and add parties (*see* Scheduling Order, ECF No. 245) and discovery has
 11 just begun. Consequently, there is an insufficient showing of undue delay.

12 More importantly, there is no showing of prejudice, as the case is in the early stages.
 13 Defendant is in compliance with the Scheduling Order and although Lopez was not
 14 previously named as a party, as the President and CEO of Bona Fide, he has been on notice
 15 of the litigation.

16 **B. Futility of Amendment**

17 Defendant argues that amendment is not futile because it alleges legitimate,
 18 colorable claims. (Def.’s Mot. at 13-14, ECF No. 247.) Plaintiff argues that amendment
 19 to add counterclaims would be futile because Defendant lacks standing and is otherwise
 20 precluded from bringing two of its three counterclaims and Defendant’s third counterclaim
 21 alleges damages that do not and cannot exist. (Plf.’s Opp’n at 11, ECF No. 250.)

22 “[A] proposed amendment is futile only if no set of facts can be proved under the
 23 amendment to the pleadings that would constitute a valid and sufficient claim or defense.”
 24 *Miller v. Rykoff-Sexton, Inc.*, 845 F.2d 209, 214 (9th Cir. 1988). Courts ordinarily do not
 25 consider the validity of a proposed amended pleading in deciding whether to grant leave to
 26 amend and defer consideration of challenges to the merits of a proposed amendment until
 27 after leave to amend is granted and the amended pleadings are filed. *Netbula, LLC v.*
 28 *Distinct Corp.*, 212 F.R.D. 534, 539 (N.D. Cal. 2003) (citation omitted); *accord Green*

1 *Valley Corp. v. Caldo Oil Co.*, No. 09cv4028-LHK, 2011 WL 1465883, at *6 (N.D. Cal.
 2 April 18, 2011) (noting “the general preference against denying a motion for leave to
 3 amend based on futility”). Arguments concerning the sufficiency of the proposed
 4 pleadings, even if meritorious, are better left for briefing on a motion to dismiss. *Lillis v.*
 5 *Apria Healthcare*, No. 12-cv-0052-IEG-KSC-, 2012 WL 4760908, at * 1 (S.D. Cal. Oct.
 6 5, 2012).

7 **1) Defendant’s CIPA Claim**

8 Defendant’s first counterclaim alleges that Plaintiff has violated CIPA through
 9 Lopez’ surreptitious recording of his conversations with Robinson and David Dubinsky
 10 (“Dubinsky”), a Regional Director for Source America. (Countercl. ¶¶ 67-70, ECF No.
 11 257-2.) Defendant alleges that Plaintiff provided these illegal recordings to third parties
 12 and that these recordings eventually ended up on WikiLeaks. (*Id.* ¶¶ 72-73.)

13 Plaintiff opposes Defendant’s CIPA counterclaim on the basis of futility because (1)
 14 Defendant lacks standing because CIPA does not apply extraterritorially and (2) Defendant
 15 has “disavowed” Robinson as its agent. (Plf.’s Opp’n at 11-13, ECF No. 250.) Plaintiff
 16 argues that Defendant lacks standing because it neither holds its principal place of business
 17 nor is incorporated in California and Defendant does not allege that any of the recordings
 18 at issue were made while Robinson was within California’s boundaries. (*Id.* at 12.)
 19 Plaintiff contends that because CIPA expressly provides that it was “not intended to have
 20 extraterritorial operation,” Defendant’s CIPA counterclaim must fail. Plaintiff further
 21 argues that Defendant lacks standing because Defendant alleges that Robinson made all
 22 the recorded disclosures to Lopez “[u]nbeknownst to SourceAmerica and without
 23 authorization.” (*Id.* (citing Countercl. ¶ 12, ECF No. 29, ECF No. 257-2.)

24 Defendant responds that at least one party to the unlawfully recorded
 25 conversations—Lopez—was located in California, and, in any event, Defendant has offices
 26 in California and Dubinsky is a California resident. Defendant further argues that it has
 27 standing because the statute creates a private right of action for “[a]ny person who has been
 28 injured by a violation of this section” and is not limited to the party that was illegally

1 recorded (Def.’s Reply at 4, ECF No. 257 (citing Cal. Penal Code § 637.2).) Accordingly,
 2 it is irrelevant whether Robinson was acting within the scope of her employment. (*Id.*)

3 CIPA, California’s anti-wiretapping and anti-eavesdropping statute, prohibits
 4 unauthorized interceptions of communications in order “to protect the right of privacy.”
 5 Cal. Penal Code § 630. The California Legislature enacted CIPA in 1967 in response to
 6 “advances in science and technology [that] have led to the development of new devices
 7 and techniques for the purpose of eavesdropping upon private communications.” *Id.*
 8 Section 632 prohibits unauthorized electronic eavesdropping on confidential
 9 conversations. *See* Cal. Penal Code § 632(a). To state a claim under section 632, a plaintiff
 10 must allege an electronic recording of or eavesdropping on a confidential communication,
 11 and that not all parties consented to the eavesdropping. *Flanagan v. Flanagan*, 41 P.3d
 12 575, 577 (Cal. 2002).

13 Here, both parties raise numerous factual and legal issues supported by declarations
 14 regarding the applicability of CIPA to the recorded conversations that are in dispute. At
 15 this point of the proceedings, it is not the Court’s role to determine the legal or factual
 16 merits of the claim. The Court cannot conclude that Defendant has failed to sufficiently
 17 plead a plausible claim for relief under CIPA.

18 **2) Defendant’s UCL Claim**

19 Defendant alleges that Bona Fide and Lopez violated California Business and
 20 Professions Code Section 17200 (“UCL”) by engaging in various misconduct in an attempt
 21 to force Defendant to recommend Bona Fide for AbilityOne opportunities to which it was
 22 not entitled. Defendant alleges that Lopez committed various “unlawful, unfair, or
 23 fraudulent conduct” in his capacity of as President of Bona Fide and, as a result, these
 24 wrongful acts caused SourceAmerica substantial injury, including reputational harm,
 25 damages, and litigation and other legal costs. (Countercl. ¶¶ 79-81, ECF No. 257-2.)

26 Plaintiff argues that Defendant lacks statutory standing to bring a UCL claim based
 27 upon out-of-state conduct because Defendant is an out-of-state claimant and of the
 28 “wrongful” conduct alleged by SourceAmerica, the only conduct that occurred in

1 California is the instant lawsuit. (Plf.'s Mot. at 14, ECF No. 250.) Defendant responds
 2 that the alleged wrongful conduct occurred largely in California, Defendant maintains an
 3 office and conducts business in California, and certain opportunities to which Bona Fide
 4 claims to have been entitled were in California. (Def.'s Reply at 5-6. ECF No. 257.)

5 Plaintiff also argues that Defendant's UCL claim based on Plaintiff's
 6 commencement of this and other lawsuits or promoting government investigations is
 7 privileged under Cal. Civ. Code § 47(b), Defendant has not alleged that it "suffered injury
 8 in fact . . . and lost money or property" as required by Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17204
 9 because litigation expenses do not qualify for UCL purposes, and Defendant has released
 10 all claims against Plaintiff for pre-July 27, 2012 conduct under the Settlement Agreement.
 11 Defendant responds that it has sufficiently alleged injury, the litigation privilege does not
 12 apply to Defendant's UCL claim because it does not bar recovery for injuries for tortious
 13 conduct, and the litigation privilege is inapplicable to illegal recordings by Plaintiff.
 14 (Def.'s Opp'n at 7-8, ECF No. 257.) Defendant contends that its UCL claim is not barred
 15 by the Settlement Agreement because "many of the allegations, including the illegal
 16 recordings, occurred well after this date." (*Id.* at 9.)

17 At this stage, the Court cannot conclude that no set of facts can be proved on the
 18 allegations in the counterclaim. In its proposed claim under the UCL, Plaintiff specifically
 19 identifies the conduct that allegedly violates the UCL. The parties dispute where the
 20 alleged wrongful acts occurred and whether Defendant is an out-of-state claimant. Even if
 21 the Court finds that some of Plaintiff's conduct is privileged, it is unclear at this juncture
 22 that the privileged conduct extends to allegedly illegal recordings by Plaintiff. Defendant
 23 alleges that at least some of the allegedly illegal recordings occurred after July 27, 2012.
 24 Defendant also alleges injury beyond litigation expenses, including harm to its reputation.
 25 The Court therefore concludes that granting Defendant leave to file a counterclaim would
 26 not be futile.

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1 **3) Defendant's Breach of Contract Claim**

2 In its third counterclaim Defendant alleges that Bona Fide "breached the Settlement
 3 Agreement by failing to notify SourceAmerica of every opportunity for which it submitted
 4 a response." (Countercl. ¶ 88, ECF No. 257-2.)

5 Plaintiff argues that amendment would be futile because SourceAmerica "cannot
 6 possibly have been damaged by Bona Fide's alleged breach of its duty to report its
 7 submission of responses." (Plf.'s Opp'n at 18, ECF No. 250.) Plaintiff contends that there
 8 is no connection between its reporting of a response to an opportunity and "any source of
 9 potential revenue or loss for Source America." (*Id.*) Defendant responds that Plaintiff's
 10 breach of the Settlement Agreement has injured Defendant because "Bona Fide's failure
 11 to report has caused SourceAmerica additional litigation expenses, and is a contributing
 12 factor in the ongoing dispute brought by Bona Fide against SourceAmerica alleging that
 13 Source America breached the Settlement Agreement." (Def.'s Reply at 10, ECF No. 257.)

14 Defendant alleges that it has been damaged as a direct and proximate result of the
 15 breach. (Countercl. ¶ 89.) At this time, Plaintiff has not demonstrated that Defendant
 16 cannot prove damages resulting from Bona Fide's alleged breach and that granting
 17 Defendant leave to file a counterclaim is futile.

18 As to the last factor, Defendant has not previously sought leave to file a
 19 counterclaim. Based on the five factors that support the filing of counterclaims, and in
 20 light of the Ninth Circuit's extremely liberal policy favoring leave to amend, the Court
 21 **GRANTS** Defendant's motion for leave to file counterclaims. Because the
 22 Court did not rely on the documents in Plaintiff's request for judicial notice, the Court
 23 denies the request for judicial notice.

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CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the Court hereby:

- (1) **GRANTS** Plaintiff's motion for leave to file a supplemental complaint; and
 - (2) **GRANTS** Defendant's motion for leave to file an amended answer and counterclaims.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: January 5, 2016

Gonzalo Curiel
Hon. Gonzalo P. Curiel
United States District Judge